

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 6-8 and 11 are pending in the captioned application. Applicants have amended claim 1 and cancelled claim 6. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following arguments.

Claims 1, 6-8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ke et al., (Cancer Res., 63, p. 7870-7875, November 15, 2003) in view of Cuartero-Plaza et al. (Clinical Cancer Research, 1996, 2, p. 13-20). Applicants respectfully disagree.

In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 and cancelled claim 6. Support for the amendment is found in the specification, see page 11, lines 10-13 of the PCT application (WO 2005/058370). Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references, either separate or combined, rendered the amended claims obvious. Thus, the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of the pending claims should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully hold that the claims submitted herewith fulfill the requirements of a patentable invention and that all rejections and objections be withdrawn and claims 1, 7-8 and 11 be allowed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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